

FAR EAST MOTORS

Use SHELL PETROL

Inflate Your Tyres and Top Up Radiator
at
26 Nathan Road, Kowloon,
For Specialized Repairs Call Kowloon
56849.

VOL. II NO. 131

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1947.

Price 20 Cents

The Hongkong Telegraph

For the Proprietor of
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
For and on behalf of
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.

Dine
At the

P. G.

For
Reservations Tel: 27880

The Capture Of Hess

The true story of how
Rudolf Hess, ex-deputy
Fuehrer of Nazi Germany,
was captured after he had
dramatically flown to Scot-
land in May, 1941, and
had parachuted from a
crippled plane, is told to-
day, for the first time, on
page 2 of the "Telegraph."
Hess was caught by Mr.
Daniel McBride, who at the
time was attached to the
Royal Corps of Signals. Mr.
McBride tells the story of
the drama in his own words.
Second and final instal-
ment of this interesting and
historical narrative will ap-
pear in the "Telegraph" to-
morrow.

Royal Navy To Be Cut By 60 %

London, Mar. 6.
Britain will reduce the Royal
Navy by 60 per cent this year.

The Admiralty announced on
Wednesday in its budget estimates
for 1947-48 that the total number of
naval officers, sailors, boys and
Royal Marines would be reduced
from 1946-47 maximum of 492,000 to
192,000 during the twelve months be-
ginning April 1.

Coupled with reductions an-
nounced earlier this week by the
War Office and Air Ministry, the
Navy slash will bring an overall re-
duction of 2,430,000 in the British
Land, Sea and Air Forces.

The comparative figures for the
three services are—

Army 1946-47 2,950,000, 1947-48
1,210,000.
Navy 1946-47 492,000, 1947-48
192,000.
R.A.F. 1946-47 760,000, 1947-48
370,000.

The biggest savings in the new
naval estimates will be £44,823,000
in the payroll. But the Admiralty
said it also intended to lose off £10-
115,000 in shipbuilding, repairs and
maintenance. The estimates made
no reference to the number of ships
that would be maintained by the
Navy.—Associated Press.

LANDSLIDE KILLS 10, INJURES 60

La Paz, Bolivia, Mar. 5.
The authorities reported that 10
persons were killed and 60 injured
in a landslide which swept across the
highway running up into the moun-
tains from La Paz.

Heavy rains had undermined the
cliff alongside the highway, and it
gave way. A bus and two houses
were buried. The landslide also
crushed a number of women wash-
ing clothes in a stream at the foot
of the cliff.—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Income Tax—Cavalier Style

GOVERNMENT is apparently determined to make the imposition of
income tax in Hongkong a fait accompli—and hang public opinion or
the consequences. Possibly it is actuated into taking this line as a result
of past experience, confident that the community is largely indifferent
and inarticulate; that, in any event, it can force through the measures it
feels necessary, whether they be popular or thoroughly disliked. Govern-
ment's time-table mirrors its intentions; an official statement on income
tax proposals is expected to be made by the end of this week or the
beginning of next (say, March 11), and the proposals are intended to
become effective April 1. Hardly an adequate period for satisfactory public
debating on measures which are certain to have far-reaching effects on
the financial and social structure of the colony.

At this stage we are not decrying income tax proposals, because we
are still to be made aware of them. But we do strongly protest the
cavalier fashion in which it is intended to foist them on the community.
It is immaterial whether it is the desire of the Imperial Government that
Hongkong should bear direct taxation, or whether it can be proved that
raising of revenue by such a means is a dire necessity. For every argu-
ment on these lines, the public can counter with citations demonstrating
that under the present form of administration income tax is nothing short
of a compulsory levy with no guarantees that the revenue will be used in
a manner desired by the taxpayers. The public has a right to know why
there should be all this rush about introducing income tax; and why the
apparent urge to maintain secrecy on details until the last possible mo-
ment? Singapore tested out public reaction to the same proposition and
when this had become thoroughly expressed, postponed the idea for 12
months. This, at least, is a democratic way of handling such a vital issue.
Although Hongkong hasn't yet a democratic form of constitution, it likes
to believe that government is capable of following those principles. Gov-
ernment will be well advised to appreciate that the public will demand
reasonable opportunities to make its feelings known before any income
tax proposals become a legal instrument, and our Unofficial Members
would do well to make haste and find out just how the community feels
on the subject, for there are some important and far-reaching debates
ahead of them.

OUTRAGES IN PALESTINE

Terrorists Strike At Many Points

Jerusalem, Mar. 5.

A bomb explosion outside Haifa to-day com-
pletely wrecked the Tax Assessment building in
Hadar Carmel, the Jewish quarter on the slopes of
Mount Carmel, it was officially announced to-night.

This was the second act of violence in Palestine to-
day, an earlier one being a raid on the Orion Cinema in the
heart of Jerusalem when a gang of four armed men held up
the manager and got away with £200 in cash.

All British troops guarding securi-
ty zones in Jerusalem were put on
the alert to-night after the ex-
plosion, as red, green and again
red flares shot into the sky in
drizzling rain from command posts.
All traffic in the city came to a
standstill.

Thirty minutes after the last ex-
plosion terrorists lobbed hand-
grenades at a military police lorry
in the Street of Prophets.
One British lance-corporal is re-
ported to be injured.—Reuter.

OTHER OUTRAGES

An unconfirmed report to-night
said that a traffic police station had
been blown up in East Jerusalem.
Irgun Zvai Leumi extremists
struck three times to-night, but one
was mistaken when a Jewish truck
was mistaken for a military vehicle
and blown up.

A Jewish civilian truck struck a
mine. The Jewish driver, Abraham
Gordon, was killed and the Jewish
passenger seriously injured. Both
were fancy dress costumes and were
on route to a Purim celebration ball.
In Haifa a bomb exploded under an
Army truck, but there were no
casualties.

Earlier, the Irgun had attempted
to blow up a jeep, which touched
off a British gun and the firing
continued, speeding through
Jerusalem's streets. At the same
time—and during a full alert—other
extremists cut electric cables and
trees in Jerusalem's Katamon dis-
trict, plunging the area into dark-
ness.

A Jewish truck was blown up
near Rehovoth, the citrus garden
city where the former President of
the Jewish Agency, Dr Chaim
Weizman, resides.—United Press.

SUMMONED TO BEDSIDE

Jerusalem, Mar. 5.
Jewish Agency chiefs have been
summoned from offices and the
United States to a conference here
at the bedside of their Chairman,
David Ben Gurion, next Monday to
discuss the present critical situation
in Palestine and Britain's decision to
refer the problem to the United
Nations.

Ben Gurion is lying ill in the
Hadassah Hospital. The Irgun Zvai
Leumi terrorists defied the curfew
and martial law during the night to
plaster posters on the walls of build-
ings in the city, reading: "We shall
continue to fight against the British
forces in spite of martial law and
curfew."

The Hagannah, more moderate
Jewish defence organization, also
broke the curfew to counter the
Irgun posters with others warning
the extremists against "unnecessary
bloodshed".—Reuter.

Theoretical Success

Washington, Mar. 6.
China got nothing out of
its suggestion that the
UNRRA programme be al-
tered, with emphasis on
food and cotton instead of
rehabilitation, possibly to
the extent of \$200,000,000.

The UNRRA Central
Committee approved the
UNRRA Far East Council
recommendation support-
ing the Chinese proposal.

But UNRRA immediately
robbed the action of its
practical effect by saying
the China programme can-
not be altered and therefore
no funds are available to
execute the Chinese pro-
posals.—Associated Press.

INDIA POLICY CRITICISED

"Cardinal Blunders" Alleges M. P.

London, Mar. 5.

Sir John Anderson, former Governor of Bengal,
to-day accused the British Government of making
two "cardinal blunders" when he opened the Opposi-
tion attack on the India policy.

The first blunder, he said, was in handing over for
practical purposes executive powers to representative
bodies without being first assured that steady progress
has been made towards a satisfactory constitutional
settlement. He had challenged the Government on this
point last December.

The second, and even greater,
blunder was being made now in
fixing the definite date for
handing over power.

"This," Sir John declared to a
packed House, "holds up definite
prospects to a party that if they can
only dig their toes in, stand fast
and endure patiently the point of
time will be reached at which they
will be free to pursue their own
course."

Another objection, he said, was
that by fixing the date of Britain's
withdrawal she was throwing away
her bargaining power. "We need
that bargaining power for the dis-
charge of certain solemn obligations.
It may well be that it is going to be
more difficult than we have ever
thought before to make our pledges
effective."

Muslims and Sikhs could look
after themselves, but there were the
oppressed classes, who had been

given very definite pledges, and
other minorities desired and had
been given to understand that they
would receive protection—pre-
ferential treatment.

Sir John Anderson followed a five-
thousand word speech by Sir Stafford
Cripps, President of the Board of
Trade, and member of the Cabinet
Mission to India. Mr Winston Church-
ill will speak to-morrow.

MOST CRITICAL STAGE

Sir Stafford Cripps, declaring that
fixing of the time limit would give
Indian parties opportunities to sink
their differences, said: "We have
now reached the final and most criti-
cal stage. We will have to take risks
as to the effect of our action upon
our own country, upon India and
upon the rest of the world. We must
not let fear of differences prevent us
from doing what we believe to be
right. We must not fail either our-
selves or India through lack of deci-
sion at the critical time."

"We are convinced that if Indian
parties at once set themselves to the
task they can arrive at a decision
upon their new constitution by the
date named. The only true basis for
our future friendship is absolute free-
dom of choice on both sides. We
shall continue during the time we
remain in India to do all we can to
assist, and we believe that this latest
statement we make of our intentions
will do something to help to bring
the Indian communities and other
leaders face to face with realities."

WORTHY AND FIT

Concluding, Sir Stafford said:
"Our whole policy has been based
upon the acceptance of the Indian
claim that they are worthy and fit
for self-government and anyone who
has the privilege of knowing their
leaders could not for the moment
doubt that claim."

They, too, he said, found them-
selves enmeshed in a tangled skein
of their own historical development
and it was only by acts of real
statesmanship that they could face
themselves from internal antagon-
isms.

"Their problems cannot, I am
convinced, be solved by the use of
force. I would, therefore, urge
upon them with all the force and
sincerity at my command that they
should seize this last and greatest
opportunity for supreme statesman-
ship."—Reuter.

Court Demonstration By Frenzied Ghetto Women

Rome, March 5.

A shrieking, wailing crowd of 150 blackgarbed wo-
men of the ghetto turned Rome's assizes into bedlam
to-day for 20 minutes and forced the postponement of
the Italian Jewry's accused traitress Celeste di Porto,
called the "Black Panther."

The women shouted "assassin" and
"kill her." They were relatives of
men who the Black Panther is
accused of betraying to the Nazis
and Fascists.

One hundred rifle-carrying Car-
abinieri guarded the court entrance
and formed a barrier across the
spectators' section and ringed the
defendants bench where the black-
haired, pale Celeste hung her head
and twisted her hands in her lap.

There were less than 40 men
present when the session opened.
The women were weeping and
muttering before the defendants
appeared. When the still attractive
Celeste entered with seven other
accused the uproar began.

Charges against Celeste allege that
26 of the persons she betrayed were
executed by the Nazis without trial
in the Ardennian caves massacre. It
was charged that the others, de-
nounced to the Nazis for 6,000 to 60-
000 lire rewards, were sent to Ger-
man concentration camps and never
heard again.—United Press.

Severe Outbreak Of Foot And Mouth Disease

London, Mar. 5.

A new outbreak of foot and mouth disease was an-
nounced to-day by the Ministry of Agriculture, and a
Ministry spokesman charged that the most severe incidence
of the disease in Britain since 1942 was "probably brought
here from South America and from the continent."

He said the plague, to prevent the
spread of which over 3,000 animals
have been slaughtered this winter,
was "not of epidemic proportions"
but was of more than the average
severity. This year he said fewer
than 50 outbreaks were reported.
In contrast he said that during the
1942 outbreak over 300 cases were
reported but neither compared to the
all-time epidemic record of 1923 when
2,000 cases were reported and over
60,000 head of cattle alone were
slaughtered.

The British policy of slaughtering
all infected or suspected animals, he
said, was costly but vastly cheaper
than the European policy of merely
trying to isolate them. The result
of the European "parsimonious
wastefulness," he said, was that up
to 3,000 cases weekly were reported
during the winter season from France,
Holland and Belgium.

SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY

In Germany, he said, the foot
and mouth disease in 1938 cost £33-
000,000. He said it was largely the
result of their non-slaughter policy.
"They do not practise our policy of
destroying the infected herds and
hence many carriers of the disease
are free to spread it to clean
animals," he said. "The natural result
is that thousands have to be slaugh-
tered eventually where we lose hun-
dreds."

The foot and mouth disease affects
only cloven-footed animals—cattle,
pigs, goats, sheep, deer and etc.—but
does not affect horses and only two
cases of its appearance in humans
were recorded.

He said attacks this year appeared
first almost equally between pigs and
cattle. Most of the cattle illness
he attributed to birds, especially
starlings which, he said, may have
brought the disease from infected
herds across the Channel.

An Agriculture Ministry survey
in Surrey, he said, is devoted to the
study of the foot and mouth disease
and is perfecting a vaccine on which

BRITAIN TO QUIT GREECE

London, Mar. 5.

The Foreign Under-Secretary,
Mr Christopher Mayhew, told
the Commons to-day that despite
Anglo-American discussions on
future aid for Greece Britain
intends to withdraw her forces
from that country "as soon as
practicable."

Mr Mayhew said Britain initiated
the talks with the United States be-
cause assistance to Greece was to
end and Britain's commitments for
financial assistance would terminate
on March 30.

"It is evident that Greece will
continue to need assistance in meeting
her minimum foreign exchange re-
quirements after that date... I am not
in a position to give any further
information on these discussions
while they are proceeding."

Reports from the United States
have said that America asked Britain
to keep her troops in Greece in ex-
change for assurances that the United
States would give full financial as-
sistance to the Greek Government.—
United Press.

Steve Donoghue's Property Goes Under The Hammer

Blowbury, England, Mar. 6.

It was a sad day to-day for Pat
Donoghue, son of the late champion
jockey Steve Donoghue, as a trick
of English law forced the auction of
his father's home, stables, paddock,
pastures and beloved racing trophies—
priceless in sentimental value.

Hundreds of racing men and
friends, from all over England,
braved the snow-blocked roads to
crowd into Millcroft, ten-room house
where England's popular jockey lived
and trained horses until his death
two years ago.

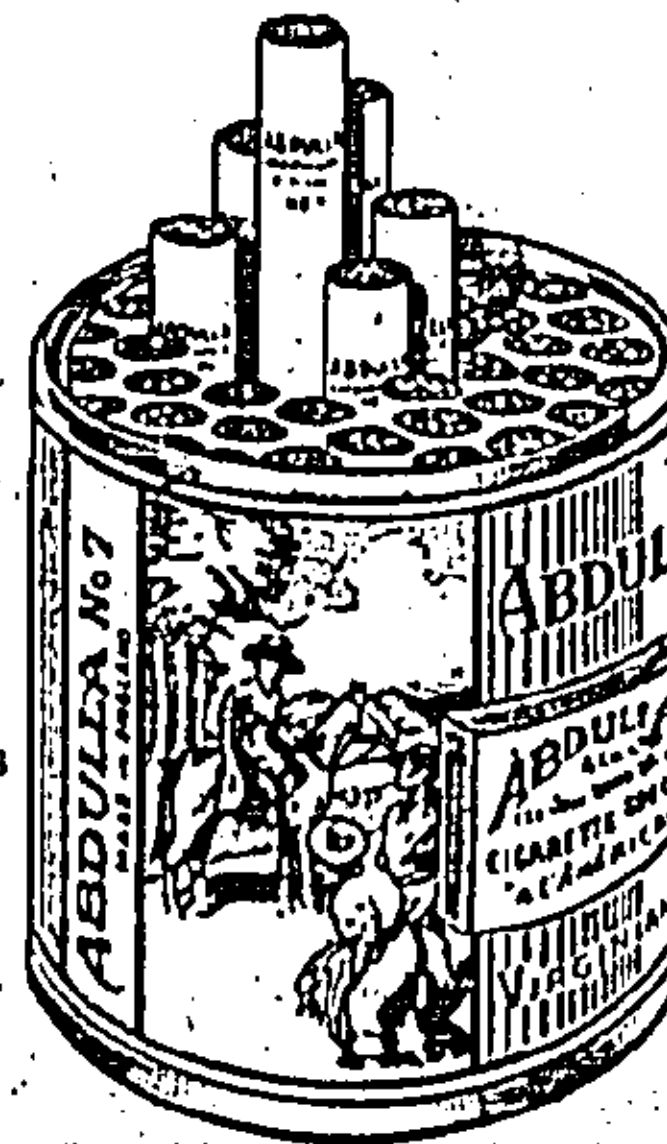
Steve's young son Pat stood sadly
by while his father's possessions
went under the hammer.

"My position is not enviable," he
said. "Father died without making
a will and, according to the law, the
estate must be sold."
Pat outbid the crowd to retain
the Manchester Gold Cup by pay-
ing £450, then bought a few other
family treasures which he said had
"sentimental value."

But Steve's home went to a local
horse trader for £3,700.
Pat said: "It's not so much the
house or grounds I mind losing, but
I cannot bear to think of his tro-
phies, for which he rode so bril-
liantly, going to strangers. I am
glad I was able to get his gold-
mounted whip, which was presented
to him by King George V, withdrawn
from the sale."—United Press.

ABDULLA NO. 7.

Famous throughout the World for
Outstanding Quality



"MADE IN ENGLAND"

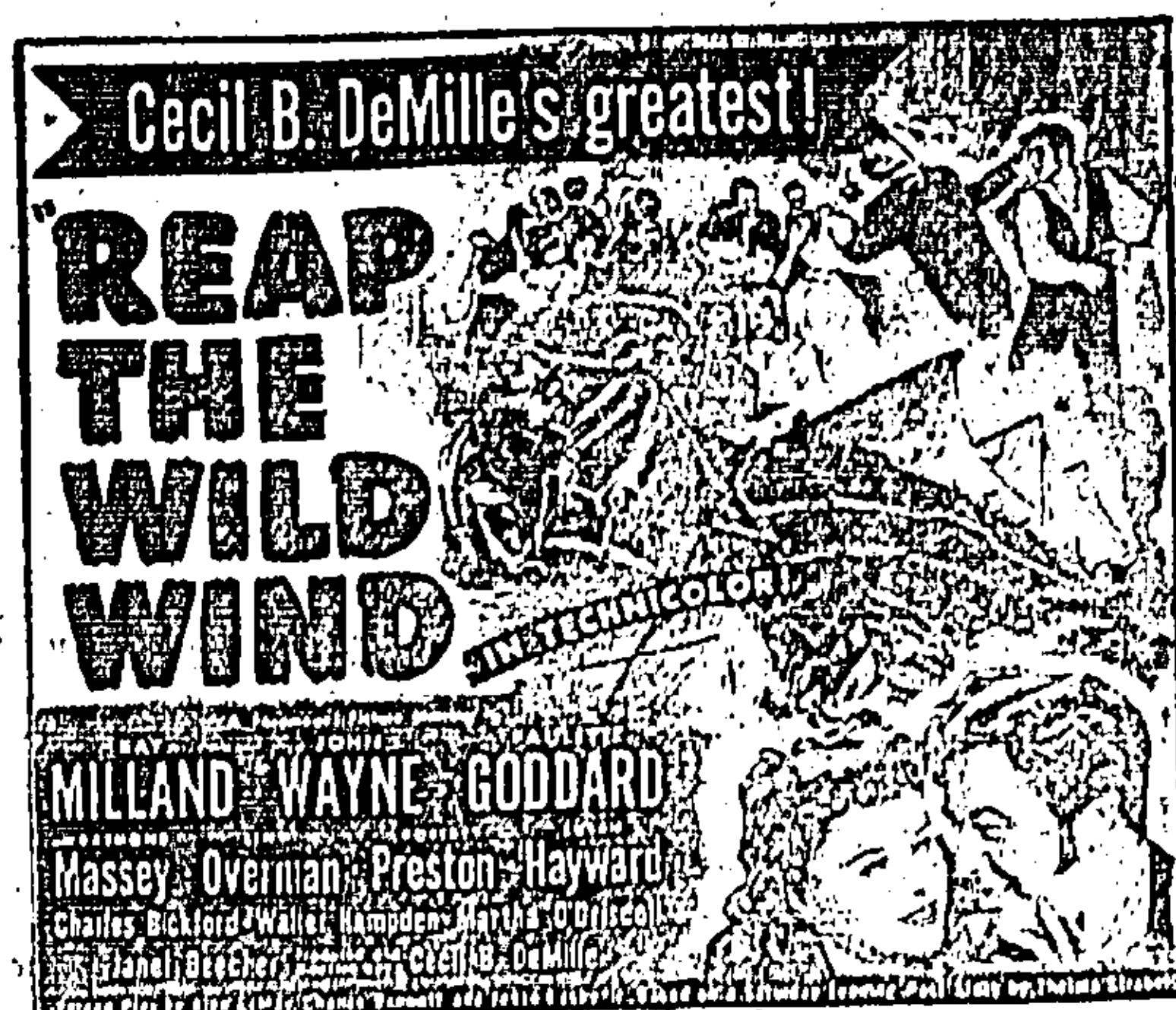
Solo Agents—

Choy Bros. & Co., Ltd.

Telephone: 34218

Loke Yew Building, Hongkong.

FINAL SHOWINGS **KINGS** AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.



ADDED: Special British Paramount News!
NEXT CHANGE

MR. & MRS. MINIVER TOGETHER AGAIN
GREER GARSON
AND
WALTER PIDGEON
IN M-G-M
"BLOSSOMS IN THE DUST"
IN TECHNICOLOR!

CENTRAL
THEATRE

5 SHOWS DAILY
At 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.
BY PUBLIC REQUEST!
—TO-DAY ONLY—



— TO-MORROW —
Dorothy LAMOUR — Robert PRESTON
IN
"TYPHOON"
IN GLORIOUS TECHNICOLOR

CATHAY — SHOWING TO-DAY —
At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.
INTIMATE AS THE
SECRET HEART OF A WOMAN IN LOVE
Claudette COLBERT • John PAYNE
in
"REMEMBER THE DAY"
A 20th Century Fox Picture.

This is the story of THE MAN WHO CAUGHT RUDOLF HESS

NOW that I am under no further obligation to HM Forces and Rudolf Hess has been sentenced, at the Nuremberg Trials, the true story of Hess's apprehension after he landed at Eaglesham, Scotland, can be told for the first time.

The purpose of the former Deputy Fuehrer's visit to Britain is still a mystery to the general public, but I say, and with confidence too, that high-ranking Government officials were aware of his coming. No air raid warning was given that night, although the Nazi markings on the plane must have been distinguished during his flight over the city of Glasgow. Nor was the plane plotted at the anti-aircraft control room for the west of Scotland.

I was the man who apprehended Rudolf Hess, although the name he gave me was Alfred Horn.

The date

It began in a glorious summer evening in May 1941—the close of a perfect day for all who were free to enjoy it by sea, river or lake, or on the wind-swept moor. I could have been found in the study atmosphere of a signal operations room anxiously awaiting 1800 hours, and my relief.

You may have guessed the cause of my anxiety. I had a date. We had arranged to spend the evening dancing. I was going to meet her in the nearby village. "But what has this to do with Hess?" I can hear you asking. Everything. All that followed resulted from that unfulfilled engagement.

Came six o'clock, my relief, and the knock-out. By orders—and the best laid schemes of privates are often ruined by orders—I was to return to billets at once. All leave and passes had been cancelled. The news put me on the spot and quashed my hopes of a pleasant Saturday night. But orders or no orders I was determined to keep my date, though the dance was out of the question.

How I got out of my billet or what passed between us is nobody's business. The time passed all too quickly. The rapidly gathering gloom warned me that it was time to part.

After leaving my friend, I made my way back to billets without being challenged.

The plane

HEADQUARTERS were in an old castle standing in extensive grounds. The main road ran past the entrance gates; from it a secondary road formed a boundary to the grounds at the side and back of the castle. Little of the castle could be seen from either of the roads, as the main drive ran through an avenue of huge fir trees. Part of the grounds were thickly wooded with beech, birch, larch and mountain ash, while the rhododendrons have the reputation of being some of the finest in Scotland.

To outward appearance, the castle seemed to be a palatial residence, but once inside, one realised that it had suffered heavily from the ravages of time, many of the rooms being uninhabitable. The east wing, however, was still in good repair, so naturally it was commandeered by officers and NCOs. To accommodate the rest of the unit, huts were erected behind the castle, and it was in one of these huts that I was billeted.

I was still lost in reverie and my companions were snoring in three different keys, when I heard the unmistakable drone of a low-flying aircraft increasing rapidly to a nerve-racking roar, which brought me back to earth with a jolt. The snoring stopped abruptly as three sleepers woke, jumped out of bed, and were outside in a matter of seconds. We were standing there in various stages of undress as the plane zoomed low over the huts. We saw it plainly, but owing to the fading daylight we could not make out the markings. From the noise of the engine and the design of the plane, we guessed it was not one of ours. Like a giant fist it circled the castle and went off in the direction of the city. The drone diminished and finally died away, leaving us asking: "If that was a Jerry, what the devil does he want? As none of us knew the answer to that, it was at least unanimous that he was flying dangerously low.

Slowly we returned to the hut talking and chatting nineteen to the dozen. Scarcely had the last man climbed into bed again when the plane was again heard approaching. Out we dashed, and the machine was clearly to be seen about 2,000 feet up, and losing height rapidly. Twice the pilot circled the castle.

Suddenly, the engine cut out. The sudden cessation of the pulsating roar was so startling and unexpected that we almost stopped breathing in our tense excitement.

I remember shouting involuntarily: "Look out, boys, she's going to crash." Then, as my brain began to function again: "Down, in case there's bombs."

Everyone dropped down as if shot as, with a resounding crash, the aircraft burst and its nose in the ground and tongues of flames flickered in and out of the wreckage.

Above the crackling of the burning plane a shot rang out—and down went our noses in the dust.

Raising my head, I stared intently in the direction from which the shot appeared to have been fired; and, looking around, saw to my astonishment a small, dangling, like a parachute, which seemed like a huge mushroom silhouetted against the darkening sky.

Calling one of the men to follow me, and yelling to the rest to do so, anyone was trapped in the now furiously blazing plane, I started to run towards the spot where I calculated the parachutist would ground.

The way was across a ploughed field. Have you ever tried to do a 220 yards' sprint across a furrow with unlaced boots on? If so, you can guess what that run was like. I broke no records though I nearly broke my neck.

Stumbling and cursing, I made my way to the shapeless bulk of the discarded parachute.

The farmhouse

A figure loomed out of the darkness about ten yards from the back door of the farmhouse. It was an airman and he was limping. I hurried him into the farmhouse, and the lady of the house ushered him into a chair in front of the fire.

The room was a typical Scotch farmhouse kitchen, clean, cosy and tidy.

The aviator made an imposing figure in his leather flying suit, and at first I thought he was one of our own boys who had come to get a drink while trying out a captured German plane; more especially as there had been no anti-aircraft fire directed at him and no sirens sounded.

I said to him: "Excuse my appearance, but I am a soldier."

I must confess I did not look much like a service man as my right arm consisted of a pair of slacks, a vest, a pair of unlaced boots and a pair of Maltese socks, which are no socks at all. Compared with the well-groomed stranger, I felt like a comic turn at a music hall.

His reply, couched in good English, gave me a nasty jar, for certain intonations betrayed that he was a foreigner.

"Ho, ho," he chuckled, "a soldier!"

I stared at him, wondering whether he really could be a German.

The answer to my next question settled any doubt I might have had as to his nationality.

"Where have you come from?" I asked.

The reply was short and sweet and to the point.

"Munich."

I nearly collapsed with fright and astonishment.

The aviator

THE aviator was tall—a six-footer—broad-shouldered and apparently in good condition despite his recent drop from the crashed plane. It takes me all my time to reach five feet four inches. I'm no modern Hercules at that. One good smack from that hefty fist of his, I thought, and you'll be another perpendicular. To cover my confusion I repeated the question and received the same brief answer.

This was getting us nowhere, so to open up the conversation I remarked: "They make good beer in Munich, don't they?"

His keen-set eyes sparkled beneath his dark, bushy eyebrows as he answered my question with another: "Why, yes. Have you been to Munich?"

"No," I replied, "but I have tasted Munich beer in Hamburg."

For the first time since Hess, one-time Deputy Fuehrer of Nazi Germany, landed by plane in Scotland on May 10, 1941, the true story of how he was captured and taken to a Scottish farmhouse near Glasgow, is told, exclusively to Hongkong Telegraph readers, by

DANIEL McBRIDE

formerly of the Royal Corps of Signals,
who is now in Hongkong



In the heyday of the Nazis, Nuremberg was the scene of mass party rallies. This picture was taken at the 1938 rally, and shows Hess (right) saluting Hitler. It was also in Nuremberg that Hess was tried last year by the Allied War Crimes Tribunal, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

My answer evidently amused him, for he laughed so heartily that I performed had to join in, though my knees were saying to the other: "Hit me and I'll hit you back."

I did not feel exactly on the top of the world hobnobbing with a German airman, but enough to tie me in little knots even though I had a companion standing at the door, for he confessed afterwards that his legs felt as if they were made of soft copper wire.

The man might have been armed for all I knew.

The telephone

SEEING that he was evidently suffering from twinges of pain which he could not entirely conceal, I asked if he had been hurt in the crash. He admitted that his right leg had been doubled up under him when he landed and was slightly sprained. I asked him to sit down and make himself comfortable. He lowered himself gingerly into the armchair and stretched out his injured leg into a comfortable position.

As soon as he was settled down, I took up my interrogation:

"Was any other person with you in the plane?"

"No," he replied. "I was alone."

"Have you any arms?"

With an impish grin, he raised his arms in Hollywood style, saying:

"These are the only arms I possess."

"Was your plane armed?"

"No."

"What time did you leave Munich?"

As I shot this question at him I kept a close watch on him, but he answered without hesitation:

"About 6.30 p.m. this evening."

At this point we were interrupted by the farmer's wife who came in to ask us if we would like a cup of tea.

I accepted the kind offer without hesitating, as I felt that I needed something to steady my nerves, but the airman expressed a preference for water and stuck to his decision though I tried to persuade him to have tea. I offered him a cigarette but he declined it with thanks.

From the doorway my companion was watching the proceedings with interest.

Under the steady influence of the tea, my mind began to function more or less normally, and I suddenly realised that it was my duty to report the incident to HQ some two to three hundred yards away, and ask them to send an escort and means of transport for the injured enemy airman.

Fortunately, there was a telephone installed in the farmhouse and I put through a call.

It took me nine minutes to get through to HQ, and when I reported my find the operator asked if I had gone "crackers." It took some time and nearly all my scanty stock of patience to convince HQ that I was not leg-pulling or suffering from a "hang-over." Then I was casually informed that no driver was available at the moment but they would condescend to send an escort at once and, with this I had to be content.

The idea

FORTY minutes later, to the dot, an escort did arrive, but not from our HQ, although the farmhouse was so near and the only one in the vicinity. The escort could have crawled on hands and knees there and back several times in that waiting period.

Probably, when this war is over and ancient history, a tattered detachment with snow-white hair and knee-length beards will totter up to the farmhouse asking for a bored out enemy airman to be handed over to them.

Cursing HQ and all its works and ways, I slipped back to have another look at the stranger to carry out an idea that had suddenly come into my head. I was friendly with the news editor of a national newspaper, and I realised that here at this lonely farmhouse was news—news with a capital "N." That being so, my friend might as well have the first option on it.

I rang him up and, note the contrast, I made contact with him in less than a minute.

He listened to my story without interrupting me, nor did he cast any of my friend's might as well have the first option on it.

"I rang him up and, note the contrast, I made contact with him in less than a minute."

He listened to my story without interrupting me, nor did he cast any of my friend's might as well have the first option on it.

And the reporter detailed for the job carried out his instructions to the letter, the public reading their Sunday morning papers would probably have learnt that Rudolf Hess had landed in Scotland, forty eight hours before it eventually became public gossip.

On my return to the kitchen I found the prisoner—for such he virtually was until such times as I was relieved of my charge by an escort—sipping a glass of water, while on the table was another cup of tea for me.

Sitting down I began to drink the tea. With the cheerful blaze of the fire radiating warmth and comfort, it seemed strange and unreal that we were enemies and that in many ways on that summer night our respective countrymen were huddled on slaughtering each other, aided in their grim task by every means that man's ingenuity and modern science could devise.

The card

SURREPTITIOUSLY I took stock of the stranger, admiring his fine physique, the black head of hair, and noting more especially the keen, clear eyes shadowed by bushy, black eye-brows.

As I watched, he stretched out his right leg, and a twinge of pain contorted his face momentarily.

I enquired if the injury was painful. An affirmative nod of the head was the only reply.

Just then I noticed what had previously missed my attention—a piece of thin cardboard strapped to his right knee. Greatly daring—for I did not know if he would resent my action—I unstrapped the card for closer inspection. It resembled a postcard and was covered with figures and letters. I tried to decipher them but the task was beyond my skill. I might just as well have tried to read the Rosetta Stone or the royal cartouche on an Egyptian mummy case.

Baffled, I asked the airman to translate them for me, but an enigmatic smile was his only reply to my request. So I had another try on my own, but again I had to admit failure.

The disappearance

I PLACED the card on the arm of my chair and turned round to take another drink of tea. Just then the farmer's wife distracted my attention by asking me if I would like another cup of tea and something to eat. I refused with thanks. When she had gone, I found that the card had disappeared. I asked the prisoner if he had taken it, but he denied having done so. I looked into the fire but there was no sign of it there, no betraying ash.

That intrigued me, so I made a meticulous search of the room but without result. During my abortive search I checked to notice the prisoner's hand slipping into a large patch pocket similar to that on a soldier's battledress uniform. I made a grab at his hand while it was still in his pocket. His head shot vigorously in denial as he pulled his hand, empty, out of his pocket.

I searched the pocket, expecting to find either the card or some weapon. I was disappointed to find nothing there. The disappearance of the card had now worried me one moment it was there, the next it had vanished into thin air apparently.

To this day I have never solved the mystery, but evidently the authorities knew all about it, for it was mentioned in the official report about the incident. How and when it turned up I have never found out.

(TO BE CONCLUDED TO-MORROW)

*World copyright strictly reserved by the author.

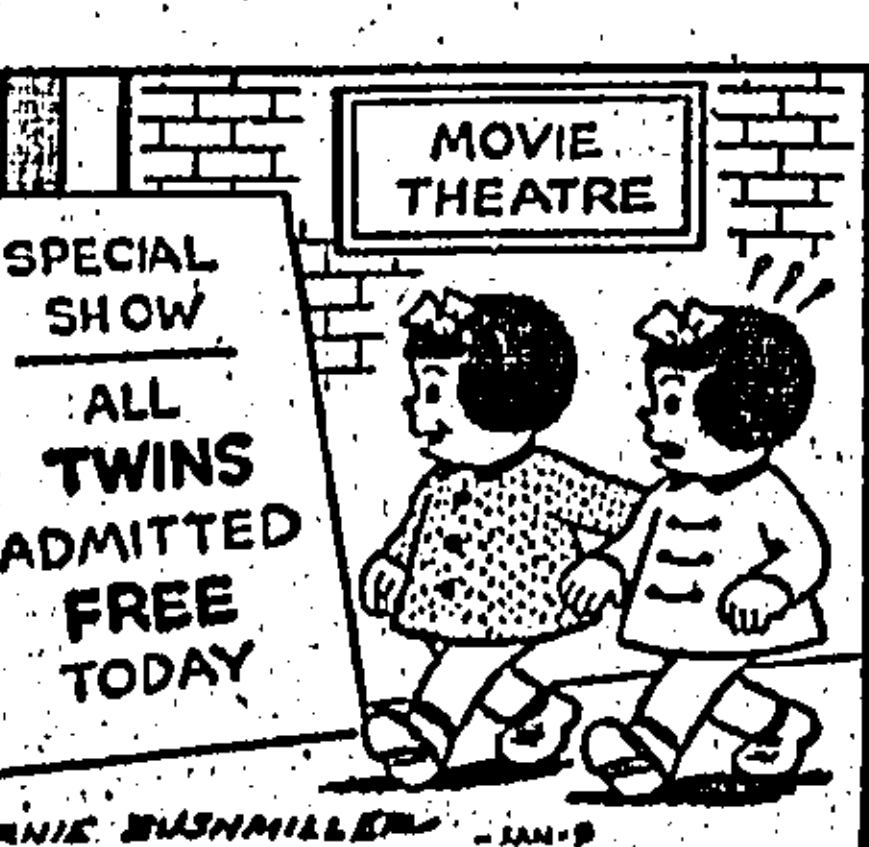
Rupert and Ninky—52



The conjurer replaces the slender jar on its shelf. "There, little bear," he says, "your donkey now full of good magic. He no rump too high and he only jump when you tell him." "Oh, do let me try," cries Rupert. "I am p. Ninky!" At once the little donkey bounces about six inches of the table. "Goody, goody!" laughs Tiggly. "Donkey now work properly! All well that end well!" The conjurer smiles grimly. "No thanks to you, naughty girl," he says. "It lucky that Rupert bring Ninky to me!"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

NANCY Good Ol' Helpful Judy!



By Ernie Bushmiller

When You Feel Tired and Restless

take
Elliotts Nerve
and
Brain Tonic



On Sale at All Dispensaries

Nanking Unable To Fight Beyond Year's End, Observers Say

Nanking, Mar. 5. Military quarters here revealed that the General Headquarters of the Chinese land forces has moved from Nanking to Huochow in north Kiangsu, where top-ranking generals have already arrived.

A well-informed foreign observer told Reuter to-day that the National Government could hardly continue military operations beyond the end of this year in view of the present economic crisis and the tremendous military expenditure caused by the civil war. That is the reason why the Nationalists are now going all out to secure a decision on the battlefield.

Planes Bomb Ice Jam To Stop Floods

Prague, Mar. 5. Czechoslovak army planes to-day bombed an ice jam on the Danube near Komarno with 50-kilogram bombs, in an effort to forestall the floods which threaten the entire Danubian basin with the rising temperature.

A jam had formed around a war-wrecked railroad bridge. Townspeople were warned that air-bombing would continue to-morrow with a red rocket fired as a warning 20 minutes before the bombing started.

Air bombs were used last week by the Bulgarian air force to smash a 12-metre ice wall on the Danube at Orheovo, between Lom and Russe, after dynamiting had failed. Before the wall was blasted, the Danube flooded miles of farmlands on the Rumanian side.

Warsaw reported that the thaw speeded blasting operations at the mouth of the Vistula and around bridges on all large rivers. The Polish Ministry of Communications said the Vistula ice was 60 centimetres thick, the Oder ice 50 centimetres and the San River 120 centimetres.—United Press.

KEDAH LABOUR TROUBLES

Singapore, Mar. 5. The popular local paper, Morning Tribune, in the first editorial on the riots in Kedah, said that the present trouble appears to have resulted from a crude attempt to impose some form of syndicalism on individual plantations.

The paper declared that the attempt doubtless was undertaken in entire ignorance of the conditions obtaining in the peninsula.

"Labourers of Kedah, poorly paid before the war and suffering greatly during the occupation, have been disappointed at the course of events since the end of war and have proved easy material upon which the agitator has exercised his wiles," the paper said.

It added: "The situation has contained all the makings of serious trouble, but, hitherto, the authorities, by the exercise of great restraint have been able to avoid any really serious incident."—Reuter.

DUTCH SHIPPING MAGNATE DEAD

Amsterdam, Mar. 5. The death was announced to-day of Mr. Daniel Goedkoop, leader of the Dutch shipbuilding industry, at the age of 72.

He was a member on the board of many Dutch shipping companies.—United Press.

CLIPPER ENGINE FAILS AT SEA

Sydney, Mar. 5. A Pan-American Clipper, with 33 passengers and eight crewmen, successfully returned half an hour after departure for San Francisco when one of the four engines stopped at sea.

Repairs will delay departure for two days.—United Press.

FIGHT FOR MILLS

London, Mar. 5. Promoter Jack Solomons announced to-day that Freddie Mills, British light-heavyweight champion, would fight Lloyd Marshall of the United States at Harringay Arena in May.

Solomons said the date of the bout would be announced shortly.—United Press.

COMPOSER DEAD

Rome, March 5. The death of Alfredo Casella, 62, noted Italian composer, occurred to-day at Quisisana Clinic. Funeral services will be held to-morrow.—United Press.

ARGUMENT OVER JAP DRUG TRADE

New York, Mar. 5. The United Nations, through the action of the 11-nation committee of the UN Economic and Social Council, to-day took over from the defunct League of Nations worldwide control of narcotic drugs, but failed to agree to banish Japan forever from the narcotics trade.

The committee, at Russia's request, postponed action on a proposal to forbid Japan to export any narcotics and to limit Japanese imports of narcotics to quantities which the Control Board estimates essential for legitimate home needs.

The committee, at Russia's request, postponed action on a proposal to forbid Japan to export any narcotics and to limit Japanese imports of narcotics to quantities which the Control Board estimates essential for legitimate home needs.

Manchurian Problems

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Liu Chieh announced to-day that the "Big Four" have "answered favourably" the Chinese Government's request that no problems other than the German and Austrian treaties be settled at the Moscow Conference without China's previous consent.

He added that no fresh negotiations with the Soviet authorities have taken place concerning Manchurian problems, nor have there been formal talks with the French over the Far East.

A Ministry of Communications spokesman disclosed that the draft of the Sino-British air treaty has been completed, but he refused to reveal details. He said that negotiations have now been completed as far as the British Air Mission is concerned. Routes for direct flights between the two countries and technical problems, such as landing permission, have all been settled.—Reuter.

Air Lift for Communists

Nanking, Mar. 5. The United States Embassy disclosed last night that the number of Communists who must be airlifted to Yenan greatly exceeds the number originally submitted to Gen Marshall by Communist leader, Gen Chou En-lai, for emergency evacuation.

This is believed to be due to addition of "border line" cases such as newspaper publishers and book store operators, who now feel their continued presence in Nationalist areas is unhealthy. The Embassy said the Chinese Government has promised transportation for the Communists in addition to the American facilities, and expects evacuation to be completed by March 8.

A C-54 is taking 50 from Chungking to-day and 50 more on Friday. The Nanking group will leave at the same time as the Shanghai group, which arrived by train yesterday afternoon.—United Press.

King Reported Indisposed

Umtata, Mar. 5. King George VI was somewhat indisposed on rising to-day, sources on the royal train said. They explained that he had slept poorly on the train, which had severely jolted along certain stretches of the line.

The King, however, betrayed nothing of this as, clad in white naval uniform, he accepted the greetings of the inhabitants of the native territories of the Eastern Cape. Members of the five main tribes in the territories, which cover an area as big as Switzerland, assembled in their thousands and gave a vociferous welcome to the royal family.

Six chiefs and 24 minor leaders filed before Their Majesties to receive autographed pictures and silver medals. Most wore western dress.—Associated Press.

HOME SOCCER RESULTS

London, March 5. Results of football games played in England and Scotland to-day were: Third Division, Southern: Exeter, City 3 Queens Park Rangers 0. Scottish League Cup, Quarter-finals, second leg: Aberdeen 3 Dundee 2 (Dundee eliminated). Dundee United 1 Rangers 1 (Dundee United eliminated). Hibernians 1 Alderstonians 0, (after 30 minutes) extra time. Alderstonians eliminated. East Fife 2 Hearts 5 (East Fife eliminated).—Reuter.

ROYAL BAGGAGE CAR DERAILED

Aboard the Royal Train, Mar. 5. A freight train travelling an hour behind the Royal cars was derailed to-night, en route from Umtata to Queenstown. It was carrying extra baggage for the Royal party.

Unconfirmed reports said the engineer was killed and another person seriously injured.—United Press.

Delegates Bound For Moscow

Berlin, Mar. 5. The British delegation of 150, headed by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, arrived at Berlin at 2.35 p.m. to-day. Delegations from three countries who will discuss the future of Germany at the Moscow conference are expected to make brief visits here during the next three days.

General George Marshall, U.S. Secretary of State, is due in Berlin on Saturday by air.—Reuter.

POCKET CARTOON

The French delegation to the Moscow conference, headed by the Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, left by special train to-day at 3.15 p.m. GMT.—United Press.

Britain supported China's efforts, but as New Zealand stubbornly held out, Russia asked that decision be postponed until the next meeting.—United Press.

Authority Dies

Detroit, May 5. The death occurred here to-day of Mr. Ralph H. Oyler, internationally known authority on narcotics and dope rings, who spent 32 years in the government service and was credited with the breaking up of some of the most notorious narcotics rings in this country.

Mr Oyler recently returned from a secret narcotics mission to Tokyo, when he was an aide on Gen Douglas MacArthur's staff.—United Press.

U.S. DICTATING TERMS ON ATOM CONTROL—GROMYKO

New York, Mar. 5. Mr. Andrei Gromyko, Soviet delegate, accused the United States of subordinating the interests of the United Nations to its own "narrow national interest" in the Security Council here to-day.

Congratulations Were Mutual

Captains on the Tests

Sydney, Mar. 5. At the conclusion of the Test series to-day, both Don Bradman and Walter Hammond, captains respectively of Australia and England, spoke on the matches. "I heartily congratulate Australia on winning the rubber," said Mr Hammond. "The decisive margin of three wins and two draws, in my opinion, indicates that the Australian team was superior in all departments of the game. Australia have a well balanced team, particularly strong in bowling, with many fine all-rounders and their fielding has been delightful to watch."

"It appears they will have a strong side for years. With the experience before us I feel sure that English cricket will respond and make a powerful challenge for the Ashes when Australia visit us in 1948."

"We look forward to continuation of that comradeship which always existed between us in England and Australia on the cricket field and other phases of our national lives."

Mr Bradman said: "I feel sure there is much in the current season for which we can all be most grateful. We must all remember the gallant lads who fell and made possible the resumption of these contests."

"The English team have endeared themselves to everyone in this country by their gallant efforts and modest bearing. It was fitting that the final game should have provided such thrilling cricket and personally I would like to see more matches played under such conditions, which give the bowler a real chance as was the case yesterday."

"It was a cruel blow that Hutton should have fallen ill at the critical stage. His presence could have turned the scales in England's favour. I sincerely trust that he will make a speedy and complete recovery. I regret very much that we shall not again have the pleasure of seeing Hammond playing in this country. Hammond's team were great sportsmen, against whom it was a pleasure to play."—Reuter.

Delegates Bound For Moscow

Berlin, Mar. 5. The British delegation of 150, headed by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, arrived at Berlin at 2.35 p.m. to-day. Delegations from three countries who will discuss the future of Germany at the Moscow conference are expected to make brief visits here during the next three days.

General George Marshall, U.S. Secretary of State, is due in Berlin on Saturday by air.—Reuter.

VIET NAMH SURPRISED BY ATTACKS

Hanoi, Mar. 5. French military operations to clear the area west of Hanoi, which began on Sunday morning, were satisfactorily completed last night, French sources said.

Large amounts of equipment and munitions left behind by the retreating Viet Namhese were captured during these operations, which came as a surprise to the Viet Namhese leaders, it was stated. French planes dropped reassuring leaflets as the troops progressed on the ground, and most of the villagers who fled in panic have now returned to their homes.

"An important mopping-up operation" was launched this morning about 30 kilometres from Hanoi by French forces, in the face of strong Viet Namhese resistance.—Reuter.

SNOWSTORMS KILL 17 IN EASTERN U.S.

London, Mar. 5. While parts of Europe to-day reported rising temperatures, the United States eastern seaboard was hidden under a snow-fall, 40 inches in places. Towns in Pennsylvania and northern New York State were isolated, but the snowstorms appeared to be moving out to the North Atlantic.

The storms caused 17 deaths—eight in New York State, six in Pennsylvania and three in New England.

Four deaths occurred in Portugal from floods, including the drowning of a three-year-old child in flooded streets at Setúbal. Twenty feet of the ancient town wall of Loulé collapsed, killing a workman and his seven-year-old twins and injuring his wife.

All over France, the temperature was rising, with rains and slight mist. Brussels said temperatures were slightly higher and that rain had fallen over Belgium. Snow fell in the Ardennes, in the Netherlands, hundreds of people are standing by to avert danger from dykes and bridges should the thaw come too quickly.

Balmy air in Rome and milder weather in north Italy brought hopes that an exceptionally hard winter was over.

Drizzling rain in western Germany washed away the wheels' old blanket of snow. Icebound rivers were thawing. Icejams threatened vital bridges, notably on the Danube. The Berlin temperature was just below freezing, with light snow falling.—Associated Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the time stated below.

Thursday, March 6

Airmail: Singapore, Colombo, Sydney, Auckland, London, 3.30 p.m. Canton, Chungking, Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, 3.30 p.m.

Seamail: Batavia, 3 p.m. Shanghai, 3 p.m. Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 4 p.m. Tsamkong, 4 p.m.

Train: Canton, 4 p.m. Friday, March 7

Airmail: Canton, 3.30 p.m. Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Tientsin, Peking, 3.30 p.m. Amoy, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, 3.30 p.m.

Seamail: Fakhri, Kungchow, Tsamkong, 10 a.m. Sandakan, 10 a.m. Mon, 10 a.m. Straits, 10 a.m.

USA, Central and South America (via San Francisco) 10 a.m. Swatow, Bangkok, noon. Kongmoon, 4 p.m. Nao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 4 p.m.

Train: Canton, 4 p.m. Saturday, March 8

Airmail: Canton, 3.30 p.m. Rangoon, Calcutta, Delhi, Johannesburg, Cairo, 3.30 p.m. Bangkok, Singapore, Colombo, Sourabaya, Sydney, Auckland, 3.30 p.m.

Seamail: America, USA, Central and South America (via Vancouver), 10 a.m. Amoy, Shanghai, 10 a.m. Bangkok, 10 a.m. Swatow, noon. Straits, 3 p.m. Manila, Batavia, Sourabaya, Macassar, 3 p.m. Shanghai, 3 p.m. Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 4 p.m.

Train: Canton, 4 p.m.

DIOCESAN OLD BOYS MEET

An extraordinary general meeting of the Diocesan School Old Boys' Association was held in the Jacobean Room, Hongkong Hotel, yesterday. New articles of association, recently redrafted by the Working Committee, were read out by the President, Mr. B. C. Randall, and passed unanimously.

Mr Randall was re-elected President. Other officers for the year 1947 are Mr. G. A. Goodson and Mr. Wat Po-cheung, vice-presidents; Mr. Wong Ka-tsun, hon. treasurer; Mr. Douglas Mackenzie, hon. secretary; and the following members of the general committee: Messrs. D. S. Green, G. S. Ford, Cheung U-pul, G. F. Aquino, D. R. Anderson, B. Pao, Chun Kam-hon, J. L. Youngs, Peter Wong, Eric Randall, Ip Cheng-hing and A. E. Perry.

Two honorary auditors, Messrs. G. S. Ladd and J. M. Mackenzie, were also elected.

Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

HUGE MALAYAN ARMS HAUL

Kuala Lumpur, Mar. 5. Thirty thousand Malayans dollars, the highest ever, in the history of Malay police, has been paid for information which led to the recent discovery of a huge illicit arms and ammunition dump by the police on the summit of a 3,000-foot mountain nine miles from Kuala Lumpur.

It is not known whether the dump belonged to gangsters, who have been terrorising the whole of Malaya, or an illegal organisation which was prepared to distribute arms and ammunition in the event of a political crisis.—Reuter.

THE BIRDS OF HONGKONG

Field Identification and Field Note Book by G. A. C. Herklotz

NOW ON SALE \$7.50

South China Morning Post and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Reprieve Asked For Condemned Africans

London, Mar. 5. A forthright demand for the "unconditional" reprieve of the five West African natives sentenced to death three years ago for a ritualistic murder and whose execution was reported to have been delayed no less than five times, was voiced to-day by the Daily Mirror and the Daily Graphic.

Criticising "Colonial government and its machinery" as "shamefully out of date", the Mirror said editorially:

"The present system is a relic of the early colonial days. No governor should have the power of life or death over native subjects without reference to higher authority."

The Graphic condemned the "unnecessary mental torture to which these men have been subjected."

The execution was postponed a fifth time yesterday after Mr Arthur Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, called Sir Alan Burns, Governor of the Gold Coast, advising him of the strong feelings against the execution expressed by members in the House of Commons.—Associated Press.

Governor to Resign

Accra, Gold Coast, Mar. 5. Sir Alan Burns, Governor of the British Gold Coast, declined to-day to make any statement either about the reprieve of the five West Africans who had been due to be executed yesterday or about a report that he had tendered his resignation to the British Government.

The suspension of the executions followed a telegram sent to the Governor by Mr Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, indicating the feeling among members of Parliament that they should not take place.—Reuter.

VIET NAMH SURPRISED BY ATTACKS

Hanoi, Mar. 5. French military operations to clear the area west of Hanoi, which began on Sunday morning, were satisfactorily completed last night, French sources said.

Large amounts of equipment and munitions left behind by the retreating Viet Namhese were captured during these operations, which came as a surprise to the Viet Namhese leaders, it was stated. French planes dropped reassuring leaflets as the troops progressed on the ground, and most of the villagers who fled in panic have now returned to their homes.

"An important mopping-up operation" was launched this morning about 30 kilometres from Hanoi by French forces, in the face of strong Viet Namhese resistance.—Reuter.

New Ambassador Appointed

London, Mar. 5. The Foreign Office announced to-night that the King had approved the appointment of Sir D. Gainer, British Ambassador in Rio de Janeiro, to succeed Mr Victor Cavendish-Bentinck as Ambassador in Warsaw.

Also approved was the appointment of Sir J. V. Perowne, councillor in the Foreign Office, to be Minister Plenipotentiary at the Holy See in succession to Sir F. Osborne.—United Press.

STAR THEATRE

THE HONG KONG STAGE CLUB presents "ROPE" a thriller in three acts by PATRICK HAMILTON PRODUCED BY DESMOND SCOTT

MON. MARCH 3 SAT. MARCH 8 AT 7.30 P.M.

BOOKING HOURS: 12 p.m.—2 p.m. 4 p.m.—6.30 p.m. TELEPHONE: 58335

ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.15—9.15 P.M. IT'S A ROMANTIC DYNAMITE AND LOADS OF FUN!

with a laugh-and-love lift like this to look forward to!

SPECIAL FOR TO-MORROW (ONE DAY ONLY) Errol FLYNN in "GENTLEMAN JIM"

SHOWING TO-DAY MAJESTIC At 2.30, 5.20 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

MEET THE MODERN "MATA HARI" She's Dangerous! ILONA MASSEY - GEORGE BRENT in "INTERNATIONAL LADY"

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS NEXT CHANCE Judy GARLAND in "THE HARVEY GIRLS" in TECHNICOLOR